ippines is made independent. China's potential power and Japan's actual premier position in the Far East are actualities which cannot be blinked at

Chinese and Japanese have many times voiced friendly sentiments for the Filipinos. China is not as yet in a position to negative her best wishes for the new republic, but Japan is. Let us ponder this point for a moment.

Japanese spokesmen, official and unofficial, have repeatedly disclaimed any purpose to exercise either commercial or political influence over the Philippines after the withdrawal of the United States. The reasons given are these: The Japanese respect the rights of other nations (the Chinese think otherwise) 5 the Japanese do not like the tropics (a colony of theirs is found in a sizzling hot region of Brazil) $ the Japanese would not gain by absorbing the Philippines, and like the United States would find them expensive (the Japanese have been drawn to Davao in Mindanao, and that island is the treasure house of the Islands).

Before me lies a beautifully bound anniversary edition of *Asahi,* great Japanese newspaper, dated July, 1934, in which appears this enlightening sentence: "Japan entertains no territorial ambitions, *but she has & 'population of nearly one hundred million"* It is the millions of Japanese multiplying beyond the capacity of the land to supply their needs and unwelcome in other lands—this is the force, the inexhaustible energy behind Asiatic Monroeism, behind Japan's home and foreign policy. Moreover, it is a perfectly understandable national policy, this desire to safeguard one's

citizens. And in its propagation small nations can claim few rights, particularly when one such small nation is a near neighbor who leaves her wealth exposed and unprotected.

Philippine assimilation by China or Japan is not so unthinkable as it seems. The Chinese already pretty well dominate Philippine commerce, and the Japanese are steadily gaining the Islands' trade. Many of the leading Filipinos are